

OTA Advisor E-Newsletter: Summer 2006

Welcome to the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance's (OTA) email newsletter, the OTA Advisor. This will provide information on major OTA initiatives, available tools, new publications, upcoming events, and other news of interest to Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) filers and other toxic chemical users. An electronic version of the OTA Advisor and other information on toxics use reduction in Massachusetts can be found on the OTA website at <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota>. If you have suggestions on how we can make the OTA Advisor more useful, or to add or remove your name from the mailing list, please email your request to maota@state.ma.us. If you would like to express comments, views or ideas about OTA's services, please email director Paul Richard directly at paul.richard@state.ma.us.

IN THE NEWS

TURA Legislation Update

An Act Amending the Toxic Use Reduction Act (Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2006), sponsored by Senator Pamela Resor, was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Mitt Romney on July 28, 2006. This legislation is the product of a months-long working group, comprised of various interest groups. Updating TURA was a major priority for EOE. Highlights of the bill include:

- Changes to the definition of byproduct for otherwise used chemicals – otherwise used chemicals shall be counted as byproduct when they leave a production unit
- Changes to the TURA planning requirements including allowing companies to conduct alternative resource planning on energy, water or materials use every-other-planning-cycle
- The implementation of a qualified Environmental Management System (EMS) as a substitute for TUR planning. EMS alternatives to TUR planning are available after a large quantity toxics user has completed 1 toxics use reduction plan and 2 plan updates
- Streamlined annual reporting to be more consistent with federal TRI reporting and the elimination of the production unit BRI and ERI calculations
- Elimination of Polycyclic Aromatic Compound (PAC) reporting in fuels
- The potential classification of chemicals as either high or low hazard, with lower thresholds for higher hazard chemicals
- Elimination of the per chemical fee for low hazard chemicals
- A process for designating user segments and priority user segments
- All plans and plan updates will be due in even-numbered years

The law is available online at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw06/sl060188.htm>. For more information please contact Rich Bizzozero at 617-626-1080

Romney Appoints New Environmental Affairs Secretary

On August 18, 2006, Robert W. Golledge Jr. was named secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) by Governor Mitt Romney, replacing Stephen R. Pritchard, who resigned to assist with the Governor's safety review of the Big Dig. For the past three years, Golledge served as the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and has extensive experience in environmental management in both the public and private sectors. Earlier this year, Golledge received the Paul G. Keough Award for Government Service from the Environmental Business Council of New England. He has also received Public Service Awards for his environmental work from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association. Golledge holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Maine, Orono and served for two years in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica.

The Effect of Providing On-site Technical Assistance for Toxics Use Reduction: A Program Evaluation Utilizing Toxics Use Reduction Act Data

OTA has released the results of a two-year study using new methods to analyze Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) data to assess the impact of its own on-site assistance services. Companies visited by OTA performed better than companies not visited on nearly every measure examined. An independent study by

Boston University researchers also found strong indications of OTA effectiveness. An executive summary and a fact sheet are also available. The final report, executive summary, and fact sheet are available on the OTA website – http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/tech_reports.htm. For more information please contact Rick Reibstein at 617-626-1062.

Records Software Update

The Office of Technical Assistance recently updated the RECORDS spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is a tool to track the usage of chemicals in mixtures for regulatory compliance or a company's own internal record keeping system. The revised version is a more user-friendly of the spreadsheet. The spreadsheet and instructions are available on the OTA website: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/software/software.htm>. For more information please contact Phil Milmoie at 617-626-1086.

EMFACT Software

The Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) and OTA won a grant from the US EPA to develop and pilot test a resource use and cost accounting software tool. The tool, called Energy and Materials Flow and Cost Tracking, (EMFACT), is intended to help companies perform environmental management accounting, a critical aspect of TUR and sustainable production. An advisory committee, including companies such as United Technology and Raytheon, and representatives of environmental agencies throughout the Northeast, as well as environmental software experts, has assisted with identification of desired software features and capacity. NEWMOA and OTA plan for the software to be available for beta testing in 2007. At this time, NEWMOA has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for software developers and will issue a formal Request for Review (RFR) in September. Information about the RFI is available on the NEWMOA website – <http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/emfact/>. For more information contact Rick Reibstein at 617-626-1062 or Terri Goldberg at NEWMOA – 617-367-8558.

Center for Cleaner Technology

OTA is in the process of creating a Center for Cleaner Technology in Central Massachusetts, which will be dedicated to the demonstration and development of technologies that manufacturing industries may use to reduce environmental, health, and safety impacts, and increase competitive advantages. The Center will also promote the availability and adoption of such technologies, which are critical to the realization of a sustainable economy. For more information please contact Paul Richard at 617-626-1042.

Nanotechnology and the Massachusetts Textile Industry

Textile manufacturing in Massachusetts has become somewhat of a niche market in recent years. Textile manufacturers should be aware that using nanotechnology to develop specialty fibers may be the wave of the future for the industry. The US Army Soldiers Center in Natick is in the process of creating textile products which may be an effective alternative to traditional fibers. If textile companies wish to learn more about this technology, contact Bill McGowan at 617-626-1078.

Toxics Use Reduction Web Page

OTA has added a new page to its website on toxics use reduction. The page will feature information on toxics use reduction, the TUR program, updates and news on TUR, and TUR related publications. If you have any questions or comments on the new web page please contact Chris MacIsaac at 617-626-1074.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CMBEN Meeting

On Wednesday, September 13, 2006, The Central Massachusetts Business Environmental Network will host a meeting on Hazardous Material Transportation and DOT Regulations. The meeting will take place at Alegro Microsystems in Worcester, Massachusetts. Registration materials will be posted on the OTA website - http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/events/ota_events.htm. - as soon as it's available. For directions or additional information contact Marina Gayl at 617-626-1077.

Cleaner Technology Conference

On April 12, 2007, OTA will host a conference on Cleaner Technologies. The conference, sponsored by A.I.M and National Grid will include demonstrations and technical sessions for industrial users focused on the potential utility of cleaner technologies relative to chemical usage and energy efficiency. The conference will also include sessions on university research activities to discuss opportunities for collaborations related

to pilot trials and demonstration at facilities. In addition, the conference will include vendor displays and provide networking opportunities. If you are aware of a promising technology that fit with these conference objectives, please contact Gus Ogunbameru at 617-626-1065

REMINDERS

Right From The Start

The Right from the Start program is a pre-permit assistance program for Massachusetts businesses that provides the technical and regulatory support needed to maximize environmental and economic performance. It is specifically designed to encourage businesses seeking permits for expansion or start up of new manufacturing operations to consider pollution prevention and resource conservation while projects are still in the planning stage. For more information, contact Paul Richard at 617-626-1042 or visit the OTA website - http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/programs/right_start.htm.

School Mentoring

The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is offering an opportunity for businesses to partner with local schools and mentor them in addressing chemical management issues. As part of this effort, OTA seeks companies that are interested in becoming mentors. For more information, visit the OTA website http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/programs/school_mentoring.htm. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Susan Lanza at 617-626-1068.

PRIOR EVENTS

Water Resource Management: Policies and Successful Strategies

On April 18, 2006, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Office of Technical Assistance and Water Policy Team, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the I-495 Metrowest Corridor Partnership hosted a Water Resource Management conference. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts experienced considerable growth, which resulted in greater stress on the water resources in the state. The conference provided the tools and strategies for industries & municipalities to conserve water. In total 225 from industry, government and the general public attended. Speaker presentations are available on the OTA website: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/events/wrm.htm>

TURA: Form S Workshops

In April and May 2006, OTA in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the US Environmental Protection Agency, hosted training sessions for TURA filers on e-filing. For 2005, there were more than 600 TURA filers with 395 filing electronically, a significant increase from 2004 when 154 facilities filed electronically. MassDEP and OTA continue to encourage all TURA filers to file electronically.

Toxics Use Reduction Achievements By Massachusetts Manufacturers

In May 2006, OTA hosted an event honoring successful Toxics Use Reduction achievements by Massachusetts Manufacturers. The program focused on the importance of improving environmental performance by using cleaner manufacturing technologies and includes discussions from government and industry. On display were case studies using "green manufacturing" techniques with product samples to illustrate manufacturing innovations. Speakers included: David Lutes, Undersecretary for Policy at EOE, Senator Pam Resor, Matt Perrone from The JM Perrone Company, Dr. John Warner, from UMass-Lowell and and Lucy Servidio from Capaccio Environmental Engineering, Inc.

Green Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Waste

On February 21, 2006, OTA hosted a public meeting on "Green Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Wastes". Dr. Ted Schettler, from the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, explained the concerns raised by discharges of pharmaceutical wastes into the environment – a copy of the presentation is available on the OTA website: http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/events/ota_past_events.htm, and Dr. John Warner, from UMass Lowell explained the approach of green chemistry and how it might help address some of the risks of pharmaceutical discharges. The presentations were followed by an open discussion.

Expanded Polystyrene Foam Meeting

OTA hosted a meeting at Holy Cross College in Worcester on June 10th, 2006. The meeting brought together pertinent parties to discuss the Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam process and the regulatory problems affecting the industry in Massachusetts. The attendees included personnel from NOVA Chemicals - a major supplier of EPS beads, a representative from MassDEP, OTA staff, research staff from the Green Chemistry Center at UMass-Lowell and a representative from a company in the EPS sector. For more information please contact Scott Fortier at 617-620-1090.

PUBLICATIONS

TURA Listing/Delisting Guidelines

The Toxics Use Reduction Act allows for annual petitions to add or delete chemicals from the list of chemicals covered under TURA. The TURA Science Advisory Board, which is administered by The Toxics Use Reduction Institute developed a set of guidelines for requesting the listing and delisting of chemicals. The Board reviews the listing/delisting petitions and makes recommendations to the TURA Administrative Council, which makes the final decision. More detailed information can be found at the Science Advisory Board website. The guidelines are available on the OTA website: http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/tech_reports.htm. For more information contact John Raschko.

Technical Assistance Revisited – Case Studies

OTA is publishing a series of case studies – called the Technical Assistance Revisited Case Studies – that are the result of an effort to measure the progress made by TURA filers who used OTA services. OTA has visited more than 1,100 facilities that have had reductions of tens of millions of pounds of toxics use. The revisited companies serve as examples of the benefits of TUR reductions. Please visit our case study page for new additions in the coming months. http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/case_studies1.htm

OTA SECTOR BASED WORK

Guidelines for the Medical Device Industry Sector

OTA will release in the fall a Design for the Environment (DfE)/Compliance guideline for the medical device industry. The guide is a result of OTA's focus group discussions, which identified a need for the industry. While OTA is targeting small and medium-sized manufacturers of medical devices, larger companies may also find the guide useful as a resource and a tool for their engineering staff. Contact John Raschko at 617-626-101093 if you have any questions.

Marine Technology: The Economic & Operational Impact of Environmental Regulations and New International Standards On Your Business

OTA convened a meeting for 25 companies in the Marine Technology Industry Sector to discuss regulatory challenges for the industry. This forum was intended for owners and staff members directly involved with the day-to-day facility operations for businesses that use toxic chemicals or hazardous substances used in process or are produced as a by-product of the manufacturing process. The final report will be available soon. Please check the OTA website www.mass.gov/envir/ota for updates. If you have any questions please contact Jim Cain at 617-626-1081.

Biotechnology Initiative

As part of Secretary Stephen Pritchard's Biotechnology Initiative, OTA hosted workshops for municipal officials in 3 communities that were interested in learning more about the biotechnology industry. The initiative is designed as an educational resource program for municipalities and an opportunity for regulators at the municipal level to learn more about biotechnology companies, the federal and state regulations that govern their operations, and any discharges to air, water, and land they may have. Workshop speakers included representatives from OTA, Massachusetts Biotech Council (MBC), industry, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Two matrix tools developed by MBC were introduced to give workshop participants information on federal and state regulations, and local permit assistance. These workshops provide a unique opportunity to ask questions of experts with all the participants at the table. OTA is committed to providing continued support and information resources to municipalities on biotechnology. For more information or to find out how your municipality can host a workshop, please visit the OTA website – <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/programs/biotech.htm> or call Gus Ogunbamere at (617) 626-1065.